

CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Edward A. Flynn, Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: JANUARY 2, 2009
NEWS RELEASE # 09-01

CONTACT: ANNE E. SCHWARTZ
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
414-935-7209

FEWER PEOPLE FALL VICTIM TO HOMICIDE ON MILWAUKEE STREETS IN 2008

Two-thirds fewer young black males died violent deaths on Milwaukee's streets in 2008 than the previous year, and the number of people killed by a firearm decreased by nearly half, according to the year-end homicide numbers released today by Milwaukee Police Chief Edward A. Flynn. There were 71 homicides in Milwaukee in 2008 compared to 105 homicides in 2007 – a decrease of 32%.

"We never forget that every number represents a human life," Chief Flynn said. "The work of many people and many organizations has clearly begun to show signs of success. Our partnership with the federal agencies has resulted in several big gang takedowns; we have a close relationship with Probation and Parole agents who now are co-located with Milwaukee Police officers in the district stations and the Neighborhood Task Force has had a significant impact."

There are many factors that may have contributed to the reduction, Flynn said, including:

- The use of data to drive police deployment
- Empowerment of district commanders to run their districts as "mini police departments" and to create solutions to district-specific problems
- The presence of community prosecutors who can tailor prosecution resources to district issues; presence of Probation & Parole agents in the districts
- Ongoing partnerships with community groups who mentor our youth on a daily basis
- Implementation of the Neighborhood Task Force (NTF); increased visibility of officers on foot and motorcycles during saturation patrols
- Federal partner agencies working with MPD on gang takedowns
- Homicide Review Commission review of homicides with community partners and implementation of recommendations with agencies involved with suspects/victims

HOMICIDE REDUCTION FACTS:

- Number of black male victims killed between the ages of 15 and 29 **decreased by 64.8%** (19 of 71 in 2008; 54 of 105 in 2007)

- more -

HOMICIDE REDUCTIONS

PAGE TWO

- Number of victims killed by a firearm **decreased by 46.4 %**; Non-fatal shootings were down 8% in 2008 from 2007 (84 firearms deaths in 2007 compared to 46): 447 people were shot in 2008 compared to 485 in 2007.
- In 2008, 7% of homicide victims (5) were under the age of 1, compared to 2007, where 1 victim was under one year of age. Three were shaken baby deaths and two were from other child abuse.
- The average number of homicides over the past 29 years is 109

HOMICIDES 1980-2008

1980	80
1981	76
1982	70
1983	54
1984	48
1985	73
1986	85
1987	95
1988	86
1989	116
1990	165
1991	168
1992	153
1993	164
1994	144
1995	142
1996	138
1997	122
1998	107
1999	124
2000	121
2001	127
2002	108
2003	107
2004	88
2005	122
2006	103
2007	105
2008	71

#